

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please note that all claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown below. Please enter these claims as amended. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Please cancel claims 3-4, 11, 13-15, 17 and 27-32 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 5-10, 12, 16, 18-26 and 33 as set forth below.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 18, -A hitch having longitudinal,
~~lateral, and transverse axes substantially mutually orthogonal to one another, the hitch~~
~~comprising:~~
~~a first ball and pedestal, extending together in a first direction;~~
~~a second ball and pedestal, extending together in a second direction distinct from the first~~
~~direction;~~
~~the first ball and pedestal and the second ball and pedestal comprising a substantially~~
~~homogeneous monolith formed of a single material; and~~
further comprising a stem, extending away from the ~~monolith~~ hitch in a third direction, distinct
from both the first and second directions, to support, ~~selectively, the first ball and~~
~~pedestal and the second ball and pedestal in a respective deployed position thereof~~ the
hitch relative to the mount.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~hitch-~~ apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first direction
and the second direction are substantially collinear and extending substantially opposite one
another.

3 - 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus hitch of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, wherein the stem is ~~rotatably connected~~ rotatable with respect to the hitch monolith.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus hitch of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, wherein the stem is formed homogeneously with the ~~monolith as a single piece of the single material~~ hitch.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus hitch of claim 6, wherein the stem is substantially cylindrical in shape.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus hitch of claim 7, wherein the stem is rotatably coupled with further comprising a the mount connected to rotatably support the stem.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus hitch of claim 8, further comprising a locking mechanism located and configured to secure securing the stem to the mount at a one of a plurality of rotational positions with respect thereto.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus hitch of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, wherein the stem is coupled connects to the monolith hitch by an interface selected from the group consisting of threading, welding, bolting, swaging, riveting, and pinning.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus hitch of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, further comprising a pedestal formed between the first ball and the at least a second ball, and wherein the stem is secured in fixed relation with respect to the pedestal ~~such that the stem and the pedestal rotate together in rigid body motion~~.

13 -15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~hitch~~ of claim 1, wherein the first ball ~~has~~ exhibits a first diameter and wherein different from the diameter of the second ball exhibits a second diameter different from the first diameter.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) An ~~apparatus for mounting a hitch to a vehicle, the~~ apparatus comprising:
a base having a supporting portion to connect to a vehicle;
a mount, having a ~~proximal end and a distal end, the proximal~~ first end pivotably secured to the base to support pitching of the mount with respect to the base between a stowed position wherein the mount is juxtaposed adjacent the supporting portion of the base on a first side of the base and a deployed position suitable for towing wherein the mount extends from the base on a second side thereof; and
a ~~first ball hitch~~ coupled with the mount, the hitch including a first ball extending in a first direction, and at least; a second ball ~~hitch~~ extending in a second direction, distinct from the first direction; wherein the first ball hitch and the second ball hitch are formed together as a homogeneous monolith of a single material;
~~a stem rigidly extending in a third direction, distinct from both the first and second directions, away from the monolith to selectively support the first ball hitch and the second ball hitch in the respective deployed positions thereof; and~~
~~the stem, pivotably securing to the distal end of the mount to provide a rolling motion of the monolith with respect to the mount.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising a first lock located and configured to selective selectively maintain the mount in one of the stowed position and the deployed position.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a second lock located and configured to selectively maintain the ~~monolith~~ hitch at ~~multiple degrees of rotation~~ a selected one of a plurality of positions with respect to the mount.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus of claim 33 wherein the hitch further includes for towing, having longitudinal, lateral, and transverse directions substantially mutually orthogonal to one another, the apparatus comprising:
a first ball hitch having a first ball, substantially spherical and solid across a diameter thereof;
and a first neck, contiguous therewith and non-spherical to extend away therefrom;
the first ball hitch formed of a first material and having an axis of substantial symmetry oriented along the transverse direction;
an intermediate region-portion formed between the first ball and the at least a second ball, a first neck portion transitioning from the intermediate portion to the first ball and a second neck portion transitioning from the intermediate portion to the at least a second ball having a first end and second end, the first end contiguous with the first neck and positioned opposite the first ball;
a second ball hitch proximate the second end and extending away from the intermediate region;
and
the first ball hitch, intermediate region, and second ball hitch comprising a single, monolithic, substantially homogenous material.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the second ball ~~hitch~~ has a second ball, is substantially spherical and solid across a diameter thereof, ~~and a second neck, contiguous therewith and non-spherical to extend away therefrom.~~

23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the first ball, and the second ball ~~hitches~~ and the intermediate portion region are substantially collinear with one another.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the intermediate ~~region~~ portion is substantially cylindrical.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a ~~mount~~ supporting the intermediate region to selectively present the first and second ball hitches for towing stem coupled to the intermediate portion of the hitch and the mount.

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 25, ~~wherein:~~
the first and second ball hitches and the intermediate region form a hitch portion of the apparatus,
and
the apparatus further comprising comprises a fastener located and configured for selectively positioning the hitch ~~portion to selectively present the first and second ball hitches for~~ towing relative to the mount.

27 - 32 (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~having longitudinal, lateral, and transverse directions substantially orthogonal to one another for mounting a hitch to a vehicle, the apparatus comprising;~~
a trunnion extending in ~~the longitudinal~~ a first direction;
a base having a ~~forward~~ first end and a ~~rearward~~ second end, secured proximate the ~~forward~~ first end to the trunnion;
a mount secured to the base ~~to receive a hitch and positionable relative thereto between a first position wherein the mount extends from the base, and at least a second position substantially half a revolution from the first position wherein the mount is juxtaposed adjacent the trunnion; and~~

a fastener engaging the mount to selectively position the mount with respect to the base in a ~~towing the first position and in the at least a second a stowed position substantially half a revolution therefrom the stowed position rendering the mount inaccessible for towing;~~
and
a hitch coupled with the mount, the hitch including a first ball extending in a first direction, and at least a second ball extending in a second direction, wherein the first ball and the second ball are formed together as a homogeneous monolith of a single material.